

REMARKS

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,128 to *Ohta et al.* (“*Ohta*”), U.S. Patent No. 5,341,231 to *Yamamoto et al.* (“*Yamamoto*”), Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 06-027329 to *Tsunoda* (“*Tsunoda*”), European Patent No. EP 0663600 to *Koike et al.* (“*Koike*”), and European Patent No. EP 0607453 to *Funamoto et al.* (“*Funamoto*”), and U.S. Patent No. 5,123,077 to *Endo et al.* (“*Endo*”). Applicants respectfully traverse, noting that none of these references discloses every element of the claims as amended. More specifically, none discloses a light guide plate whose light reflecting surface is has an arch shape that extends substantially from one of the light incident surfaces to another one of the light incident surfaces.

Ohta discloses a light guiding plate 3 with a series of flat reflecting faces 3f, rather than any arch shape. *Ohta* thus cannot disclose a light guide plate with an arch shape that extends substantially from one light incident surface to another. None of the remaining references cures this deficiency in *Ohta*. *Yamamoto* does not disclose any arch shape that extends between two light incident surfaces. *Tsunoda* at most discloses a light conductive plate 7 with a light reflecting plane 3 that has an arcuate portion in its middle (e.g., FIGS. 7-8). However, this arcuate portion does not extend all the way between the sides of plate 7 that face lights 8. *Koike* and *Funamoto* each only disclose light guides with straight surfaces, and no arch shapes. *Endo* discloses a light guiding element 4A whose surface 4a is straight, not arch shaped.

Claims 1 and 12 as amended are thus patentable over each of these references, singly or in combination, for at least the reason that they both recite a “light guide plate” with light incident surfaces facing light generating parts, and with a light reflecting surface that has “an arch shape that extends substantially from one of the light incident surfaces to another one of the light incident surfaces.” The remaining pending claims each depend from one of claims 1 and 12, and are thus each also patentable for at least this same reason.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Claims 1-15 are now in condition for allowance. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-5029. Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (408) 331-1671 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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